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H18 180+

Filed Via Express Mail

Rec. No.: EV 332278173US

On : February 3, 2004

By

Eric L. Maldonado

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Attorney Docket No. NECN 18.280 (100933-16777)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor: Shota IWASAKI, et al.
Serial No.: 09/768,633
Filed: January 24, 2001
Title: CIRCUIT BOARD
Examiner: Ishwarbhai B. Patel
Art Unit: 2827
Con. No.: 3961

February 3, 2004

Director of the U.S. Patent and
Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

S I R:

In order to comply with discretionary rules 37 CFR §§1.97 and 1.98, attached hereto is a copy of Form PTO-1449 and a copy of the documents listed thereon. This document contains information in which the Examiner may consider to be important in deciding whether to issue a patent in the instant application.

Also attached is a copy of a Japanese Office Action dated December 24, 2003 from the corresponding Japanese Patent Application. All of the documents listed in Form PTO-1449 appear in the Japanese Office Action.

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As these documents are written in a language other than English, English Language abstracts are annexed thereto explaining their relevancy in accordance with 37 CFR §1.98(a)(3).

As this statement is being filed after the issuance of a final Office Action, a fee of \$180.00 accompanies this document in accordance with 37CFR §§1.97(c) and 1.17(p).

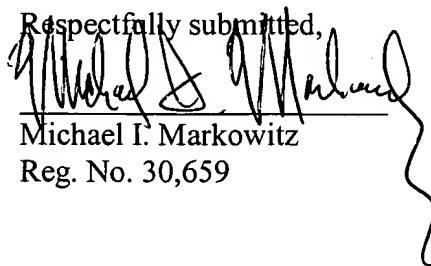
Each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted in compliance with 37 §CFR 1.56 as an Examiner might consider any cited document important in deciding whether to allow the application to issue as a patent, but the citation of each document is not to be construed as an admission that such document is necessarily relevant or prior art. No representation is intended that the cited documents represent the results of a complete search, and it is anticipated that the Examiner in the normal course of examination, will make an independent search and will determine the best prior art consistent with 37 CFR 1.104 (a), and in the course of such search will review for relevance every document cited on the attached form even if not initialed.

Early and favorable consideration is respectfully solicited.

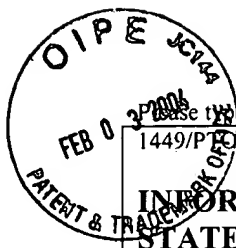
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Respectfully submitted,



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Patent and Trademark Office U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

1449/P

U.S. Department of Commerce
Patent and Trademark Office

Application No. : 09/768,633
Filing Date : January 24, 2001
First Named Inventor: S. IWASAKI
Group Art Unit : 2827
Examiner Name : I.B. PATEL
Attorney Docket No. : NECN 18.280

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

Sheet 1 of 1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document	Kind Code if known ²	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear

FOREIGN DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document Office ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)	Country	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YY/Y	Pages, Columns Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		10-013003	JP	CASIO COMPUT CO LTD	01/16/1998	
		10-275961	JP	MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC CORP	10/13/1998	
		11-354676	JP	SONY CORP	12/24/1999	
		64-051697	JP	HITACHI LTD	02/27/1989	
		04-188886	JP	IBIDEN CO LTD	07/07/1992	
		08-279680	JP	SONY CORP	10/22/1996	
		1-316989	JP	MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC WORKS, LTD.	12/21/1989	
		58-105166	JP	TOSHIBA CHEMICAL CO., LTD.	07/18/1983	
		61-34765	JP	MEIDENSHA ELECTRIC MFG. CO., LTD.	03/03/1986	
		62-178564	JP	NEC CORPORATION	11/12/1987	
		61-24295	JP	NEC CORPORATION	02/01/1986	

Other Prior Art-Non Patent Literature Documents

Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), data, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, country, where published, source.	Applicant check here if English language translation attached
Examiner Signature	Date Considered		

Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw a line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Unique citation designation number. ²See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³Enter Office that Issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.1* if possible. * Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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